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THE
DECLARATION
OF THE
Lord Petre
UPON HIS
DEATH,
TOUCHING THE
PLOT,
In a LETTER to his Most Sacred
MAJESTIE.

May it please your Majesty,

I Give my self the hopes that your Majesty will Pardon this Presumption of a *Dying but Unhappy Subject*, in giving you the trouble of this *short Account and Declaration* of my self, by which in the first place I offer to God my *Heartly Prayers* for your Majesties *long Life and happy Reign*, with all the *Blessings of this Life, and Eternal Happiness* of the next; I having been now above *Five Years* in Prison, and what is more *Grievous* to me, lain so long under a *false and injurious Calumny* of a horrid Plot and Design against your Majesties *Person and Government*, and am now by the *Disposition of Gods Providence* called into another World, before I could by a *Publick Tryal* make my *Innocence* appear, I conceiv'd it necessary for me,

as

As an Incumbent Duty I owe to Truth, and my own Innocency, to make this *Ensuing* Protestation to your Majesty and the whole World. That whereas one Titus Oates hath maliciously and falsely Sworn that he saw me receive a Commission directed to me from Joannes Paulus de Oliva, constituting me Lieutenant General of an Army, which he pretended was to come into England; I declare in the Presence of the All-seeing God, before whose just Tribunal I am shortly to Appear, that I never saw any such Commission directed to me or any other Person whatsoever, and do firmly believe there never was any such; But of the Folly as well as the Falshood of the Information, the sober Part of Mankind, as I conceive, sufficiently e're this Convinced.

And as for those Aspersions which the Ignorant and Malicious have thrown upon the Roman Catholick Church (of which I am, and by the Grace of God do Dye a Member) as if Murthering of Kings, and taking up Arms against our Sovereigns were an Authoriz'd Principle of that Religion: I do knowingly affirm there is nothing with more Horror Detested by the Catholick Church, as being expressly contrary to the Command of our Saviour and Christian Doctrine, and as such I Renounce and Detest it, as I do all Plots and Conspiracies against your Sacred Person. Having thus Briefly, and with all Sincerity of a Dying Man discharged my Conscience, I shall end where I began, and with my last Breath beg of God to Defend your Majesty from all your Enemies, and to Forgive those, who by their Perjuries have endeavoured to make me appear to be One, who Living and Dying am (as in Duty bound, &c.)

Your

Most Obedient and

Loyal Subject

W. PETRE.